

## **St. Louis Suburban Council News**

Our 2007-2008 year has been very busy. We started off our activities with a “Wine and Wisdom” get-together at the Hacienda Mexican Restaurant with a presentation by Cindy Clausen from Booksource on the latest in children’s literature. This was a real hit! Our first general meeting featured prolific education author Dr. Marjorie Lipson from the University of Vermont and IRA Board Member. She focused her message on explicit comprehension instruction with specific steps teachers can readily apply. She is a very gifted lady and funny, too!

Then, we had “Spooky Tales at the Bacon Log Cabin,” another more informal get-together. Tammy Rhomberg delighted us with her scary storytelling, then each of us had a chance to read from stories and books we brought to share. We also brought along refreshments and had a fun, cozy, candle-lit visit in the historic cabin. At our December general meeting, Tim Rasinski presented “From Phonics to Fluency to Proficient Reading.” He is so talented and engaging, we not only learned a lot, but had a great time, too.

Our program this year includes several Family Literacy Projects, support for Ronald McDonald House and the Philippines and Mayan Literacy Projects, and a teacher Literacy Mini Grant.

Many of us have also enjoyed attending the MSC-IRA “Gift of Literacy” State Conference and the “Planting the Seeds of Literacy” Plains Regional Conference. The quality and variety of the presentations offered was just amazing.

We look forward to our Spring Banquet with a presentation by Peter Brunn and highlighted by a celebration of our council’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

*Submitted by Lillian Katzenmeyer, President*